

Wesley Music Foundation (ACT)

Annual Report for 2009-10

The Foundation has two accounts – one a Public Fund for donations and the other a General Account for other operations, including all activities of the Friends of Wesley Music (currently about 180 subscribing members), the Wesley Music Centre and the ACT Organ School.

The following is a summary of the audited financial results for the year. Details are in attached tables.

Public Account

A total of \$42,066, excluding transfers from the General Account, was received into the Public Account, compared with \$82,892 in the previous year when receipts were boosted by special fund raising for the new Yamaha C6 grand piano. The receipts comprised donations from the public, including the Wesley community, of \$38,340, bank interest of \$2,715 and GST rebates of \$1,011.

Total payments were \$29,612. Major payments from the Public Account this year included \$9,217 for furniture and fittings, including a new photocopier, \$7,717 for Wesley music scholars, \$5,000 for a cello composition commissioning project and \$2,475 for scholarships for theological students to attend the October 2009 seminar on "*Celebrating our Faith*".

During the year the remaining debt on the property loan was fully eliminated.

The amount identified for the Lois Dunn Woodwind Scholarship at 30 June 2010 was \$37,840 and the amount for the John Perrin Scholarships \$39,348. These amounts were fully invested at 30 June 2010.

With the memorial donations and a significant continuing anonymous donation, the majority of Wesley Music Scholarships at the current level can be funded in the short term. A limiting factor is the low return on investments at the current level of interest rates.

Substantial additional donations are still required to assist in the medium to longer term funding of the administration of the Music Centre Office, other Music Centre operations and future programs for music promotion and education including scholarships and associated funding.

General Account

Receipts into the General Account during 2009-10 totalled \$113,806 compared with \$99,867 in the previous year. The seminar in October 2009 generated revenue of \$31,357 compared with special event revenue of \$10,002 in 2008-09. Membership subscriptions to Friends of Wesley Music totalled \$2,710 with many members also making donations to the Public Account.

Payments from the General Account (excluding the ACT Organ School and Scholarships and transfers to the Public Account) amounted to \$74,343 compared with \$61,635 in the previous year. Major components in 2009-10 included \$21,902 for seminar expenses, \$20,027 for Wesley Music Centre services, repairs, renewals and maintenance, concert costs of \$16,568 and insurance of \$3,405.

The ACT Organ School was revived with an average of 4 students receiving weekly lessons from Philip Swanton who gave additional lessons when his schedule allowed. Philip's travel was subsidised by the Foundation by \$100 each week and by contributions from each of the students' families. The regular students are very young and highly talented young people between the ages of 12 and 16.

The operations of the Music Centre resulted in an overall gross profit of \$39,174 compared with \$38,232 in the previous year.

The net overall result was a profit of \$39,575 compared with a profit of \$27,191 in 2008-09.

Caution has to be exercised in interpreting the receipts and payments for particular accounting categories and also the financial summaries because of leads and lags which overlap financial years.

Events and activities during the year

There were about 130 concerts and other public events during the year in the Music Centre including the new Wednesday Lunchtime series which commenced in March 2008. The annual total of event bookings was 780 including hirings, joint ventures, professional engagements, music examinations, educational sessions, recordings and rehearsals. In 2010 Wednesday Lunchtime Live concerts have attracted an increasing number of attendees. They involve a high proportion of students studying at the ANU School of Music and also secondary students learning from private music studios. There have also been performances by ANU lecturers and community professionals and amateurs. Toni Law, a WMC volunteer, has done wonderful work in the scheduling of performers and the preparation of flyers, media releases and programs.

There is a very wide range of performers in the Music Centre for various events, including former Wesley Scholars, ANU graduates, current ANU students, ANU teachers, professional soloists and ensembles, community ensembles, and also private piano and voice studios. They come not only from the ACT but also from interstate and overseas. The Centre hosts teachers giving individual lessons in voice, piano and cello.

Regular users of the Centre include many University of the Third Age groups and the Australian Music Examinations Board.

Role of the Foundation

The Wesley Music Centre and Foundation operations are supporting the music ministry of the Parish in significant ways as well as developing relationships and contacts with a wide spectrum of school, college, university, church and community organisations and groups and also students and other individuals.

The Foundation also provides opportunities for fund raising by worthy charities and for financial support for scholarships and other awards for young performers. From time to time concerts are arranged to benefit young music students, especially to help them attend special events.

Estimates for 2010-11

Public Account

It is not possible to forecast donations, but if the last 7 years experience is taken as a guide continuing support for the work of the Foundation can be expected.

Payments could be at least of the order of \$30,000 including scholarships, capital improvements and equipment.

General Account

Assuming a continuation of operations at roughly the current level, receipts are expected to be of the order of \$85,000 with payments of around \$60,000, excluding ACT Organ School and Wesley Scholarships.

Because of the diversity of activities and the mix of regular and special one-off events, these estimates can only be a very rough approximation of possibilities.

Thank you

I must record appreciation for the work of the Board of the Foundation. The Board is responsible for the management of the Music Centre and other functions of the Foundation under its Trust Deed and Constitution. During the year Rev Gregor Henderson, Stan Sismey, Chris Emery, Don Whitbread and Glenda McDowall were re-appointed to the Board. Dr Robert Schmidli, a Fellow of the Foundation and a regular performer on the Wesley Music Centre piano for fund raising concerts, was appointed to the Board.

The operations of the Foundation depend greatly on the work of many volunteers. On average 8 volunteers are scheduled to assist in the Wesley Music Centre office operations. There is a continuing need for more volunteers for various roles in the operations of the Music Centre, especially to cover absences of regular volunteers. Angela Neuhaus worked as a part-time Assistant for the highly successful National Seminar "*Celebrating our Faith*" held in October 2009. We thank the regular volunteers including Stan Sismey, Chris Emery, Matt Dillon, Margaret Mansfield, Toni Law, Linda Collings, Jill Roberts, Bruce Bowman, Dan Sloss and Simon and Helen Cowling. Don Whitbread assisted as MC for most *Wednesday Lunchtime Live* concerts.

The Board appreciates the continuing help of the Ministers, staff and volunteers of Wesley Uniting Church and also the support of Wesley members through attendance at events.

We trust that the work of the Foundation will continue to provide enjoyment, inspiration and tangible help to many people, including young musicians, through the wide range of its many activities.

Garth Mansfield
Secretary
Board of Wesley Music Foundation

January 2010.

The Wesley Music Foundation was established in March 1999 under a Trust Deed between the NSW Synod and the Board of the Foundation to promote music and music education not only for the benefit of the Wesley Uniting Church but also for the benefit of the ecumenical church and the general public. It was included on the Register of Cultural Organisations in June 1999 to enable donations to its Public Fund to be tax deductible.

Since 1999 the Foundation has financed the establishment and operation of the Wesley Music Centre, funded most music scholarships, provided funds for almost all of the cost of the necessary refurbishment of the Wesley organ and organised and implemented a very wide range of activities and events that have involved not only members of the Parish but also many hundreds of people of all ages in the wider community.